Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A stereoselective process for the preparation of (3S,2R) [1S,2R]-1-halo-2-hydroxy-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butanes represented by the formula I

wherein Hal is halogen, R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl and R_1 is a protecting group for the amino function comprising contacting a (3S) [1S]-1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butane represented by formula II

wherein Halo, R and R₁ are as defined above with a microorganism capable of catalyzing the stereoselective reduction of the compound represented by formula II wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971, [and] *Rhodococcus sp.* ATCC 21227, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 27854 and Brevibacterium sp. ATCC19653 under

conditions such that said reduction is effected, and recovering said compound represented by formula I.

- 2. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein Hal is chloro, R is phenyl and R_1 is t-butoxycarbonyl.
- 3. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277.
- 4. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971.
- 5. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 21227.
- 6. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 27854.
- 7. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Brevibacterium sp.* ATCC19653.
- 8. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a one-stage fermentation.
- 9. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a two-stage fermentation.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out in the presence of an inducer <u>effective to</u> initiate or enhance the reduction.

- 11. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the inducer is a compound represented by formula I that is added during the growth of said microorganism.
- 12. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 70 % yield and at least 93% diastereomeric purity.
- 13. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 95 % yield and at least 99% diastereomeric purity.
- 14. (Cancelled)
- 15. (Cancelled)
- 16. (New) A process in accordance with claim 10, wherein the inducer is a 1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected) amino-4-substituted butone represented by formula II.